

THE
Old *French* Way
OF MANAGING ^K
TREATIES.



*Subruit amulos
Reges muneribus.*

Hor.

L O N D O N,

Printed for *A. Baldwin* near the Oxford-
Arms in *Warwick-Lane.* 1711.

Price 3 *d.*

Old Town Way

1811

1812

1813

1814

1815

1816

THE CONTENTS.

T HE Treaty set on foot by an ordinary Fellow. Pag. 1.	English Lords. ib.
The first Messenger taken by the French for a Spy. p. 2.	He gives them ready Money, and Presents of Plate. ib. & 9.
Lewis sends a Footman to sound the King of England. p. 3.	England's Ally enrag'd. p. 9.
He makes him jealous of his Allies and his Subjects. p. 4.	Laughs at the Peace. ib.
Mentions the Pretenders Adherents at Home. p. 4.	Scorns to enter into it. ib.
Lewis promises Satisfaction in general Terms. ibid.	King Edward is pray'd not to believe the Fr. King. p. 10.
Passports granted. ibid.	He is offer'd Money not to conclude a Peace. ib.
Plenipotentiaries meet. ibid.	King Edward comes with his Army towards Amiens to ratifie the Peace. ib.
The English make large Demands at first. p. 5.	Lewis designs to make Peace at any rate to dissolve the Alliance. ib.
They terminate in ready Money, and an Annuity for themselves. ib.	Lewis sends the King of England some of his best Wine. ib.
They propose Articles about Trade not worth mentioning. ibid.	He orders Tables to be spread at Amiens for the English. ib.
That room should be left for Allies. ib.	The Frenchmen make them drink. p. 11.
Lewis over-joy'd at our Proposals. ib.	The English mightily pleas'd. ib.
His Counsel suspect our forwardness. ib.	An Interview between the two Kings. ib. & 12.
Money to be borrowed for the English. ib.	They swear to the Articles. ib.
A Trickster caught. ib. & 7. 8.	Several English Nobles dislike the Peace. p. 13.
A Separate Truce concluded. p. 8.	Lewis however presents them with Plate and fine Horses. ib.
The King of England to receive his Money. ib.	The French Court make a Jest of the King of England. p. 14.
Pensions promised by Lewis to	He that took notice of it was well rewarded by the French King,

THE CONTENTS.

<i>King, that he might not tell.</i>	<i>ib.</i>	<i>several Places in Flanders.</i>	<i>ib.</i>
<i>Lewis careful not to give the English Ground to think he laugh'd at them.</i>	<i>ib.</i>	<i>Complaints made of the French King's Perfidiousness.</i>	<i>p. 18.</i>
<i>But privately laugh'd at the Wine and Presents he had made them.</i>	<i>ib. & 15.</i>	<i>King of England regards more his Pension from France.</i>	<i>ib.</i>
<i>King of England's Reasons for entering into the War.</i>	<i>p. 16.</i>	<i>He sends the French sharp Messengers to please his Subjects.</i>	<i>ib.</i>
<i>How he brought the principal of his Commons to approve the Peace.</i>	<i>p. 16.</i>	<i>The French King treated and took off his Messengers with Presents.</i>	<i>ib.</i>
<i>How he engag'd them to suppress the Murmurs of his Subjects.</i>	<i>ib.</i>	<i>His chief Trust in his Pensioners in England.</i>	<i>ib.</i>
<i>He was earnest for a Match with France.</i>	<i>p. 17.</i>	<i>The Names of several of the greatest French Pensioners.</i>	<i>ib.</i>
<i>A particular Treaty concluded between France and the Duke of Burgundy.</i>	<i>ib.</i>	<i>The Great Chamberlain refuses to give a Receipt for his Pension.</i>	<i>p. 19.</i>
<i>France ruins that Duke.</i>	<i>ib.</i>	<i>But his Money was duly paid him.</i>	<i>ib.</i>
<i>France seizes his Dutchy, and</i>		<i>The Conclusion.</i>	<i>ib.</i>

S I R,

SINCE you tell me that you don't well understand *French*, especially that old Dialect which *Comines* wrote; and that you are willing to have an Account of the Treaty which was made betwixt our *Edward* the IVth and *Lewis* the XIth of *France*, by the Intervention of some mean Fellows; and that you desire likewise to be informed of the Intrigues of the Great Constable of *France*, who play'd with all Sides, and was the chief Trickster of that Time; I'm willing to oblige you, and am satisfy'd you will be pleas'd with the diversity of Scenes that the Story presents to your View.

THE

T H E

Old FRENCH Way

Of M A N A G I N G

T R E A T I E S.

THAT Treaty which *Comines* gives an Account of so much to the Dishonour of our Nation, was first set on foot to publick Appearance by an ordinary Fellow, Servant to a Gentleman of the *French* King's Household, who had not above 20 Crowns Salary *per Ann.* himself, therefore I can suppose the Servant to have been no other than a Footman. This Fellow was taken near St. *Quintins* by the *English*, when they march'd up to the Town in hopes of being receiv'd into it without Opposition, according to Promise by the Count *de St. Paul*, Great Constable of *France*, who was the chief Trickster of his Time, but lost his Head for it at last, as you shall hear in its Place. The Footman being brought before King *Edward IV.* and the Duke of *Burgundy*, one of the Predecessors to the House of *Austria*, who was his Ally in this War against *France*, they examin'd him; after which the King order'd him to be set at liberty, since he was the

B

first

first Prisoner they had taken in this Expedition. As the Fellow was going, the Lords *Howard* and *Stanley* gave him a Noble, and bid him in the Stile of those times *recommend them to the good Grace of the King his Master, if he could have Access to speak to him.*

The Fellow made haste to the *French King*, who was then at *Compeigne*, and found Access to deliver the Message. *Lewis XI.* took him at first for a Spy, because his Master's Brother was in the Service of the Duke of *Brittany*, who was also in Alliance with the King of *England* and Duke of *Burgundy*, and therefore order'd him to be kept in Custody that Night. Abundance of People had Liberty however to talk with him, and finding him speak with so much Assurance, they gave it as their Opinion, that the King ought to allow him a further Hearing. Next Morning betimes the King sent for him, and after examining him more thoroughly, order'd him still to be kept in Custody.

As the King went to Dinner, he was full of Thoughts about this Matter, whether he should send to the King of *England* or not? And before he sat down, whisper'd *Comines* in the Ear, that he remember'd the *English Herald* had told him, that when the King of *England* landed, he needed not send to him for a Passport, but might direct any Messenger to the said Lords *Howard* and *Stanley*. [This Mystery you will find unravell'd in the Course of the Story.] The King having spoke thus, sat down, and ruminating a little, he whisper'd again to *Comines*, bid him rise up, and seek for one who was Servant to the Lord *Halles*, and ask him if he durst undertake to go to the *English Army* in the Habit of an Herald; *Comines* found out the Man, and ask'd what the King had commanded him, but was perfectly amaz'd when he saw the Fellow, for he had neither Mien nor Behaviour fit for such an Undertaking, nor had the King ever spoke to him but once; *Comines* owns though that the Man had Sense, and a
very

very graceful and smooth way of Speaking. The Servant was so much surpriz'd when *Comines* spoke to him, that he fell on his Knees as if he would have drop'd down dead, so that he had much ado to keep him from falling into a Swoon, the Proposal was so amazing to one in his Circumstances. *Comines*, to encourage him, promis'd him a Post and Money, and told him, that he needed not be afraid, *for the Motion came from the English*, kept him to dine with him, and instructed him what he should do. In the mean time the King sent for *Comines*, who gave him an Account of the Man, and advis'd him to some others that he thought more proper; the King would not hear of this, but went and talk'd with the Fellow himself, and having animated him by Promise of a great Reward, he taught him his Lesson; but was so hard put to it to rig him out on a sudden, that he was forc'd to take a Banner from one of his Trumpets to make him a Herald's Coat, and to borrow a Badge from a Herald belonging to the Admiral, for the King had none of his own there, and so mounted him with his Habilliments put up in a fine Bag fix'd to the Bow of his Saddle, till he should come to the *English* Camp, which was but eight Miles distant. Thus he sent him a-going unknown to any body but *Comines*, and the Lord *Villiers* his Master of the Horse.

The Fellow according to Instructions came to the *English* Camp, and putting on his Coat of Arms, was brought to the King's Tent, told those in waiting, *That he was sent from the King of France to the King of England, and was ordered to address himself to the Lords Howard and Stanly to be introduc'd.* The King being at Dinner, this new vamp'd Herald was carry'd to another Tent, where he had his Belly-full of more substantial Food than *French Kick-shaws*; and when the King had din'd, the Herald was brought before him, and deliver'd his Message thus: "The King of *France* had of a long time coveted his Ma-

“ jesty’s Friendship, and that their two Realms might
 “ live in Peace; that since his Master came to the
 “ Crown, he had never undertaken any War directly
 “ against the King, or King of *England*; and tho’
 “ he had entertain’d the Earl of *Warwick*, it was only
 “ against the Duke of *Burgundy*, and not against
 “ him. He likewise said, that the Duke had invited
 “ his Majesty beyond Sea, only that he might be able to
 “ make the better Terms for himself; and that the rest of
 “ the Allies who concurr’d with him had done it to retrieve
 “ their own Affairs, and to gain their particular Ends:
 “ That the Winter now drew on, that his Master the
 “ King of *France* knew his Majesty had been at great Ex-
 “ pence, and that there were many in *England* both of the
 “ Nobility and Gentry, &c. who were eager for War at
 “ home in favour of the Pretenders of *Lancaster*; but
 “ if the King of *England* would listen to a Treaty,
 “ the King his Master would do all that was possible
 “ on his part, that both he and his Kingdom should have
 “ Satisfaction, and that he might be more thoroughly
 “ inform’d of Matters. If he would grant a Passport
 “ for 100 Horsemen, the King of *France* would send
 “ Ambassadors to him fully instructed; or if the King
 “ of *England* had rather that they should meet at a
 “ Village, half-way betwixt both Armies, the King
 “ of *France* would readily agree to it, and send Pass-
 “ ports on his Side.

The King of *England*, and part of his Great Men
 lik’d these Proposals very well, gave this supposed He-
 rald such a Passport as he desired, and a Present of four
 Nobles; they sent also a Herald with him, to get the
 King of *France*’s Passport, and next Day there met in a
 Village near *Amiens*, on the Part of the *French* King,
 the Bastard of *Bourbon*, the Admiral, the Lord *St. Peter*,
 and the Bishop of *Eureux*; on the Part of the King of
England, my Lord *Howard*, Mr. *Chalanger*, Dr. *Marten*,
 Chancellor of *England*, and the Archbishop of *Can-*
terbury.

Thus

Thus, Sir, you see the Treaty so far advanced by a Footman; for I can suppose a Gentleman who had only 20 Crowns, or 4 l. 10 s. *per Annum* Salary, was not able to keep a Servant of a higher Station, and a *Valet de Chambre*, for so we must account of this new vamp'd Herald at best.

I come next to tell you how a nine Years Truce was concluded betwixt *Edward IV.* and *Lewis XI.* notwithstanding all the Endeavours used by the Duke of *Burgundy* and his other Allies against it.

The *French Valet de Chambre* having thus perform'd his Part, he was rewarded with a Post and Money, and the Day after the Ambassadors on both Sides met, the *English* (says *Comines*) demanded, according to Custom, the Crown of *France*, or at least, *Normandy* and *Guienne*. They made a vigorous Attack, and the *French* made as brave a Defence; however, the very first Day of Meeting they began to come within Ken of one another, for both Sides were eager for a Peace. At last, the Demands of the *English* terminated in 70000 Crowns to be paid down before they marched off: That *Lewis* the 11th's Son should be married to King *Edward's* Daughter, and that the Dutchy of *Guienne* should be given to King *Edward*, or 50000 Crowns paid him annually in the Tower of *London*, for 9 Years, after which, *Guienne* was to be peaceably enjoy'd by the Prince and Princess above-mention'd. Some other Articles there were, relating to Trade, &c. which are not worth mentioning; and there was Room left for the Allies on both Sides to come into this Treaty if they pleas'd. Nay, the King of *England* was so forward, that he offer'd to give the *French* King an Account in Writing of several of his own Subjects, who were Traytors to his Crown and Dignity.

The *French* Ambassadors having reported these things to *Lewis XI.* he was extremely rejoiced, and call'd a Council upon it, at which *Comines* was present. Some were of Opinion that the *English* dissembled, and that

that there was Fraud couch'd under the Proposals, which proceeded, I suppose, from the extraordinary Forwardness that appear'd in the English Court towards a Peace. But the King of *France* was of another Opinion, because of the advanced Season, that the English had not one place of Retreat in their hands; That there was a Misunderstanding betwixt them and the Duke of *Burgundy*, and that the King knew our *Edward IV.* was wholly given up to his Ease and Pleasures; and as to the Constable of *France*, tho' the King knew him to be a Tricker, yet he was sure he wou'd deliver up none of the Places he had promis'd to the Duke of *Burgundy* and the English, because the King being jealous of him, kept fair with him, and was continually sending Messengers with fine Words and large Promises to keep him from doing any Mischief. Therefore it was concluded to raise the Money demanded by the English with all possible speed, and to borrow it from those that were able to lend; for the King was resolv'd to be rid of the English at any rate, and rather to hazard all, than to suffer them to get Footing in the Kingdom of *France*, which they were just ready to enter.

Comines being sensible that this was a very mean Submission on the part of the French King, excuses it thus; That he knew what Mischiefs the English had formerly done in *France*, and knowing the Danger of his own Circumstances from the Duke of *Brittany*, and others, that were ready to raise Commotions in the Bowels of the Kingdom, he wisely chose this part, as the only means left him to disappoint the Designs of the Duke of *Burgundy* and the other Confederates.

The Constable of *France* perceiving the Treaty to be near concluded, and being sensible that he had trick'd with all sides, he sent his Secretary and one of his Gentlemen to the King, with Proposals to break off the Treaty. At the same time one of the Duke of *Burgundy's* Gentlemen who had been taken before *Arras*, was let go on his Parole to procure his Ransom, and

pro-

promised a great Sum by the French King, besides being let go Ransom-free, if he cou'd bring his Master to a Peace. He happen'd to return the very same time when the Constable sent his Servants to the King of *France*, who improv'd the Opportunity thus: He put the Duke of *Burgundy's* Gentleman and *Comines* behind a large Screen in his own Chamber, and call'd in the Constable's Secretary and Gentleman, that the Duke of *Burgundy's* Servant might hear their Proposals, and report them to his Master, which he doubted not wou'd have a good Effect. The Constable's Servants began their Discourse, and told the French King that their Master had sent several times to perswade the Duke of *Burgundy* to break with the English, and found him so much incens'd against the King of *England*, that he had almost gain'd him not only to desert them, but to fall upon them as they retired; and the better to please the King, one of the Constable's Servants acted the Duke of *Burgundy* before him, stamp'd with his Foot against the Ground, swore by *St. George*, which was the Duke's usual Oath, and call'd the King of *England* *Blayborgne*, the Bastard of a Beef-Eater of that Name, and all the other reproachful Names which he cou'd invent. The French King laugh'd heartily, and pretending to be thick of Hearing, bid the Fellow repeat it, and speak out louder; which he did with a very good Grace. The Conclusion of their Message was, that the Constable advis'd His Majesty to make a Truce with the English, to avoid the Dangers which otherwise threatned him from the Allies, and to grant the King of *England* a little Town or two for Winter-Quarters, pointing at *Eu* and *St. Valery*: And added, That the Constable was sure this wou'd please the English; and for his part he wou'd be Guarantee they shou'd keep the Treaty: The French King having gain'd his End, which was to let the Allies know the Constable's Knavery, he answer'd his Messengers very civilly, told them he wou'd in a little time let his Brother the Constable know his Mind,

Mind, for so he thought fit to call him, because he had married a Daughter of *Savoy*, Sister to the Queen of *France*; and then dismiss'd them, after one of them had taken his Oath that he wou'd discover every thing that he knew to be transacted against His Majesty's Interest. The King had much ado to dissemble his Wrath at the Constable's Proposal to give the English those two Towns, because he knew it was made on purpose to excuse himself at their hands for not delivering them *St. Quintin*, &c. according as he had promis'd to the King of *England* and the Duke of *Burgundy*, but he conceal'd his Displeasure, and sent a Civil Answer to the Constable to keep him in Suspence, and prevent his delivering up the Towns under his Government. When the Constables Messengers were gone, the King call'd the Duke of *Burgundy's* Gentleman (who had much ado to keep his Patience when he heard his Master so much abus'd) and *Comines* from behind the Skreen. The King laugh'd heartily, and was very merry while the Duke's Gentleman was in such a Rage, that he cou'd scarce be kept from taking Horse immediately to acquaint his Master with the Constable's Treachery. But the King prevail'd with him to stay till he wrote down with his own Hand what pass'd: And the King writ to the Duke, assuring him of the Truth of what his Gentleman *Seigneur de Contay* (for that was his Name) had writ. The Truce with *England* was concluded before this on the Terms above-mention'd, and an Interview agreed on betwixt the two Kings; after which the King of *England* upon receiving his Money, was to return to his own Country, and to leave the Lord *Howard* and Mr. *Cheyney*, who was Master of his Horse, as Hostages behind him. A private Pension of 16000 Crowns *per Annum* was also promis'd to the King of *England's* Servants. The Lord *Hastings* had 2000 *per Ann.* the Lord *Howard*, the Master of the Horse, Mr. *Gballanger*, the Lord *Montgomery*, and others had the Remainder, besides good Sums in hand, and Presents of

of Plate to others of King *Edward's* Servants.

The Duke of *Burgundy* being inform'd of this Negotiation, came from *Luxemburg* in all haste, attended only by 16 Horse, to the English Camp. K. *Edward* was very much surpriz'd at his coming in that manner, and perceiving by his Countenance that he was in a Rage, ask'd him the Reason. The Duke told him he came to speak with him, and ask'd if he had made a Peace. The King answer'd, He had made a Truce for nine Years, which he pray'd him to agree to, since there was room left for him and the other Allies to enter into it. The Duke upbraided him, as *Hollinshed* tells us, with this shameful Treaty, and that he had not so much as kill'd a Fly or burnt a Sheep-Cote for his coming to *France*: That his Glorious Ancestor King *Edward III.* behav'd himself otherwise, and wou'd never make Peace till he conquer'd *France*, was made Regent of it, and declar'd Heir Apparent. That the said Victorious Prince was as near a-kin to him, the Duke of *Burgundy*, as the King of *England* was to King *Henry V.* whose Blood he charg'd him with having destroy'd; and told him, *that he had agreed to a Peace not worth a Pease-Cod*: That he did not invite him beyond Sea for any need he had of him, since he was able to revenge his own Quarrel, but only to give him an Opportunity to recover what had been unjustly taken from him; and to let the King of *England* see that he did not value his Assistance, he scorned to enter into his Truce, or to make any League with the French King till three Months after King *Edward* was returned home; and throwing down his Chair in a Rage, would have been gone. But the King stop'd him, and answering his Reproaches with others, for which I refer to *Hollinshed*, the Duke left him in a Fury. Some of the King of *England's* Council who were against the Peace, approv'd very much of what the Duke of *Burgundy* had said.

I return now to the Tricking Constable. He being afraid of the Consequences of this Treaty, sent his Confessor,

fessor, as *Comines* and *Hollinshed* agree, with a Letter to King *Edward*, praying him for God's Sake not to believe the *French* King, who would break his Promise as soon as the King of *England* was returned; and rather than he should conclude a Peace for want of Money, he would lend him 50000 Crowns. Therefore he advis'd him to take *Eu* and *St. Valery* for Winter Quarters, and before two Months were over he promis'd that he would take Care his Quarters should be enlarg'd. King *Edward* answer'd, he had already agreed with the *French* King, and so left the Constable in Despair.

I come next to the Interview between the Kings of *England* and *France*, and the Circumstances which preceded it. The King of *England*, to ratify this Peace, came with his Army within half a League of *Amiens*, but they march'd in such Disorder, says *Comines*, as shew'd they did not understand Discipline. The *French* King view'd them from the Gate of the Town, and though they were very numerous, he might easily have defeated them had he thought it for his Purpose; but his Design was to treat them nobly, and to make Peace with them at any Rate, in order to dissolve the Alliance: He sent the King of *England* 300 Waggon Load of the best Wine he could get, which with their Convoy made as great a Shew as the *English* Army; and besides this he ordered two very large Tables to be plac'd at the Entrance of the Gate with all sorts of Provisions that would make them drink, and at each Table there was the strongest Wine in *France*, with six or seven *French* Men of Quality, of the fattest and largest that were in the Kingdom, to entertain and please the *English*, who lov'd jolly Companions and good Cheer. The *English* came in great Numbers, with their Horse and Arms to the Town, without observing any Order; and as soon as they approach'd the Gate, there were *Frenchmen* who took them by the Bridle, and pleasantly asking them to run at the Lance with them, brought them to the Tables, where they

they made them eat and drink *en passant*, and told them, they might go into the Town, and call for what they would, but should pay for nothing. This pleas'd them mightily, and thus they were treated for three or four Days successively. They came in such Numbers, that the Lord *de Torcy* and *Comines* told the *French King* it was dangerous to have so many Enemies in the Town, for they were at least 9000. Upon which *Comines* was order'd to mount on Horse-back, and to speak to the *English* Captains about it, for the King would seem to take no notice of it himself. *Comines* did so, but for one that the Captains sent back, there were twenty came in their Places; so that the King sent *Comines* again with a *Mareschal of France* to view their Posture in the Town, where they found most of them drinking or asleep in the Publick Houses, and reported it to the King, who, tho' he thought there was no great Danger from Men who observ'd so little Order, he commanded Troops to be privately arm'd, plac'd some of them at the Gate, and came himself to the Porter's Lodge, where he invited the Chief of the *English* to dine with him. The King of *England* being inform'd of these Disorders, was alarm'd of it, and sent to the *French King* to suffer no more of 'em to enter the Town; to which *Lewis XI.* answer'd, that he would never do so, but if the King of *England* pleas'd he might send his own Guards to keep the Gates, and to let none in but whom they thought fit. This was accordingly done, and the Town clear'd of the *English*.

To put an end to those Disorders, the Place of Interview was agreed on, by Gentlemen deputed on both sides. A Wooden Bridge was made on purpose over the *Soame*, with an Apartment for the two Kings in the Middle, and a Barrier betwixt them. *Comines* observes, that the Road by which the King of *England* came to the Bridge was a strait Cause-way, with a dangerous Morass on both sides, whereas the *French*

King had the Country open on his side ; from whence that Author remarks, *That the English are nothing so subtle as the French, and go very awkwardly about Treaties ; but being choleric, those that deal with them must have Patience, and not give them hard Words.* I shall not insist upon the further Particulars, but the Interview was made : The *French* King came first to the Barrier, and leaning against it, the King of *England* came up, took off his black Velvet Cap, adorn'd with a great Flower-de-Luce set in Jewels, and kneel'd to the *French* King, who return'd him a very low Bow, and said to him, *Cousin, you are very welcome. There's no Man in the World I desired to see so much as your self ; and thank God that we are met here in so friendly a manner.* The King of *England*, who spoke *French* well, made a suitable Return in that Language ; and then the Bishop of *Ely*, who was Chancellor of *England*, began his Speech with a Prophecy, (for the *English* are never without one, says *Comines*) the Import of which was, *That Merlin had foretold there should be a remarkable Peace concluded between England and France at that Place.* After this the Articles were read and sworn on both sides. Then the *French* King said smilingly to King *Edward*, *That he must come to Paris, and feast with the Ladies, and he would give him the Cardinal de Bourbon for Confessor, who would readily pardon him if he happen'd to commit any Slip.* King *Edward* laugh'd, for he knew the Cardinal was a boon Companion. Some farther Discourse of this Nature having pass'd, the *French* King order'd his own Courtiers to retire, for he would speak with the King of *England* alone. The *English* Courtiers retired, says *Comines*, at the same time, without expecting their King's Orders ; and when those Princes had spoke a while together, the *French* King call'd for *Comines*, presented him to the King of *England*, and ask'd his Majesty if he did not know him ? King *Edward* own'd that he did, and remember'd the Services he had formerly done him at *Calais*. The
French

French King ask'd *King Edward* what he would advise him to do, if the Duke of *Burgundy*, who had so haughtily rejected the Treaty, continu'd in that Mind? *King Edward* answer'd, he would offer it him once more, and if he did not comply they would consult about it: Then the *French King* ask'd him the same Question about the Duke of *Britany*. To which *King Edward* reply'd, that he desir'd his Majesty not to make War upon him since he had been his chief Friend when he was forced to retire from *England*. Upon this they parted after very fine Complements, the *French King* to *Amiens*, and *King Edward* to his Army. The Duke of *Gloucester*, the King of *England's* Brother, and several others, who did not like this Peace, would not assist at the Conference; but they were induced to wait upon the *French King* afterwards, who presented them with Plate and fine Horses nobly accoutred. On the Road to *Amiens* the *French King* told *Comines* that he did not like *King Edward's* being so willing to come to *Paris*, for he was a handsome Prince and lov'd Women, so that he was afraid if he came thither, he might find some Lady that would tempt him to return again; that his Predecessors had been too often in *Paris* and *Normandy*, and that he did not care for their Company on that side the Sea, tho' he lov'd to have them his Friends in *England*. He was likewise displeas'd that he would not abandon the Duke of *Britany*, but urg'd it no further lest he should have provok'd him. When the *French King* returned to *Amiens*, three or four *English* Men of Quality, who had promoted the Treaty, came and supp'd with him, during which the Lord *Howard* whisper'd him in the Ear, that if his Majesty pleas'd he believ'd he could prevail with the King of *England* to come and make merry with him at *Amiens*, if not at *Paris*. The *French King* receiv'd the Message with a pleasant Countenance, but put it off by saying, that he must make haste to observe the Duke of *Burgundy*. The next Day after the Treaty, abundance of

of *English* came to *Amiens* and said, that the Peace was made by the *Holy Ghost*, because a white Pigeon perch'd upon the King of *England's* Tent during the Interview, and would not move from it notwithstanding all the Noise made by the Soldiers. But the Truth of the Matter, says *Comines*, was told him by one of King *Edward's* own Servants, viz. that there had been a great Rain, and after that the Sun shin'd out very hot, and the Pigeon lighted upon the King's Tent, which was the highest, to dry it self. The same Gentleman, who was a *Gascoyn*, told *Comines* privately, That he perceived the French Court made nothing but a Jest of the King of England. *Comines* ask'd how many Battles that Prince had won? The *Gascoyn* answer'd he had gain'd 9 in Person. *Comines* ask'd further, how many he had lost? The Gentleman answer'd, none but this, meaning the Treaty, by which he said he lost more Honour than he had gain'd by all the 9 Battles. *Comines* told this to the King of *France*, who thereupon said, the *Gascoyn* was a cursed Son of a Whore, and that *Comines* must take Care what he said to him. He afterwards sent him to invite that Gentleman to Dinner, which he accepted; and the King offer'd him very great Rewards if he would take Service under him, which the Gentleman refus'd; but the King told him he would take Care of his Brothers that were in *Gascoigne*, made him a Present of 1000 Crowns, and *Comines* whispered him in the Ear, that he should be well rewarded if he'd use his Interest to entertain a good Correspondence betwixt the two Kings.

Lewis XI. resolv'd to take great Care after this to say nothing that might give the *English* ground to think that he laugh'd at them, yet the very next Day when there was none but *Comines* and three or four more about him, he could not forbear laughing at the Wine and other Presents which he had sent to the *English* Army; but turning about he saw a *Gascoyn* Merchant in the Room, who liv'd in *England*, and was come to
beg

beg Leave to carry over some Wine Custom-free. The King was vex'd when he saw him, ask'd him who he was, and what Estate he had; and understanding that he had no great matter, he gave him a Post in *Bordeaux*, granted him his Demand, and presented him with 1000 Franks, on Condition that he should send for his Family from *England*, and go no more there himself.

Comines gives another Instance of the King's Care to avoid giving any Offence to the *English*. A Gentleman of our Nation seeing part of the Duke of *Burgundy's* Guards, who came with his Ambassadors to treat with the King after he had been deserted by the *English*, said to *Comines*, *Had we known that the Duke of Burgundy was so well provided with Troops, we should not so readily have agreed to a Peace.* The Lord of *Narbonne* reply'd, *Were ye such Fools as not to know that? Ye only say so now, but 600 Pipes of Wine and a Pension from our King has sent ye all a packing again to England.* The *English* Gentleman broke out into a Rage, and said, *He perceiv'd it now to be true what he had often been told, that the French made their Games at the English, but by St. George, says he, what your King gave us is not a Pension but a Tribute.* Upon which *Comines* interpos'd, broke off the Discourse, turn'd it into a Jest, and told the King of it, who sharply rebuk'd the Lord of *Narbonne*.

I return again to the tricking Constable, who finding that he had entirely disoblig'd the Duke of *Burgundy* and the King of *England*, sent one of his chief Servants to beg of the King not to believe all the Ill that was said of him, and to assure his Majesty of his Fidelity, he offer'd to prevail with the Duke of *Burgundy* to fall upon the *English* in their Retreat. The Message was deliver'd to *Comines*, and he reported it to the King, who in Presence of the Lord *Howard* and the Duke of *Burgundy's* Gentleman that had formerly overheard the Constable's treacherous Proposals, deliver'd

a Letter to the Constable's Servant, and told him; *That he was taken up about Affairs of great Concernment, and stood in need of such an Head as his Master's.* The poor Man thought this a very friendly Answer; but when he was gone, the King turned about to the Gentleman above-mention'd, and said merrily, *I did not intend to have the Constable's Body, for his Head is all I want.* At the same time the King of England sent Lewis XI. two of the Constable's private Letters, with an Account of all that he had said and done against him; so that those three Princes conspir'd to take off this Trickster's Head, which certainly he very well deserv'd, tho' it was below the Character of the King of England and the Duke of Burgundy to become Evidence against him.

It is time now to wind up the Story in as few Words as I can: *Comines* tells us, that the King of England did not engage cordially in this War, for before he came from *Dover* he began to treat with the French King; and that he brought his Army over to France for the two following Reasons: 1. *Because his People were eager for a War against France, and the Duke of Burgundy press'd him to it.* 2. *That he might save most of the Money which had been granted him by the Parliament for that War; and the better to impose upon his Subjects, he brought with him twelve of the principal Commons of England, who had been the most zealous for the War, and contributed chiefly to raise the Money for maintaining it.* The King lodg'd them in good Tents; but being corpulent Men, and not accusom'd to the Fatigues of War, they hop'd the King would soon have ended the Matter by a Battle. His Majesty, who never intended it, fill'd their Heads with Doubts and Fears as to the Issue of a Battle, and manag'd the Matter so well, that he brought them to approve the Peace, and engag'd them to help in suppressing the Murmurs of his Subjects upon his Return; for there never was a greater and better appointed Army sent from England to France. But King Edward was not of

a Complexion to endure such Fatigues as the Conquest of that Kingdom would have requir'd ; besides he was mighty earnest for a Match betwixt the Dauphin, afterwards *Charles VIII.* and his own Daughter, which made him dissemble many things that afterwards turned to the *French King's* Advantage.

All the *English* being return'd home, except the Hostages, the Treaty betwixt the *French King* and the Duke of *Burgundy* was brought to bear by *M. de Contay*, that Duke's Gentleman formerly mention'd, and the King carried the *English* Hostages to *Vervins*, where the Treaty was finished. The King of *England* being inform'd of the Negotiations, and enrag'd that the Duke of *Burgundy* would not agree to his Truce, sent *Sir Thomas Montgomery*, one of his Favourites, to the King of *France*, to pray him that he would make no other Treaty with the Duke than he had done with him, and particularly that he would not yield up *St. Quintins*. He proffer'd at the same time, if the King had a Mind to continue the War, that he would join him next Year in Person against the Duke, provided the *French King* would pay half his Army, and give him an Equivalent for the Customs of Wool at *Calais*, which was about 50000 Crowns per Annum. *Lewis XI.* thank'd the King for his Proffer, told *Sir Thomas* the Treaty was already concluded, that it was only for nine Years, but the Duke would have a particular Treaty for himself ; and thus making the best Excuses he could, he made *Sir Thomas* a rich Present of Plate, and sent the *English* Hostages home with him. Thus *Lewis XI.* thought himself well rid of the *English*, and did not care to see them any more on that side the Sea, lest they should have renew'd their Treaty with the Duke of *Burgundy*.

This Prince was at last ruined by the Intrigues of *Lewis XI.* who stirred up Enemies against him on every side ; and after his Death he seisd the Dutchy of *Burgundy*, besides several Places in *Flanders*. The King of *England*

was the only Prince capable to put a Stop to *Lewis XIth's* Career, and the Heirefs of *Burgundy* sent Ambassadors to entreat his Assistance, which the Parliament came heartily in to, and represented to King *Edward* the French King's Perfidiousness, and his Breach of the above-mention'd Treaty, in not concluding the Match betwixt the Dauphin and his Daughter. But King *Edward* being a heavy unweildy Man, and wholly addicted to his Pleasures, he had no Regard to their Remonstrances; besides the Pension of 50000 Crowns paid him every Year was a Bait for his Avarice: And when he was obliged to send Ambassadors with sharp Messages, to please his Subjects, the French King always treated them well, took them off by rich Presents, and gain'd time, by pretending that he would speedily send Ambassadors with full Instructions to give their Master Satisfaction; and at other times he propos'd to share the Netherlands with him. But his chief Trust was in the great Number of Pensioners he had in England, whom *Comines* names as follows: The Lord Chancellor, the Master of the Rolls, the Lord *Hastings*, who was Great Chamberlain, and in mighty Favour with his Master, Sir *Thomas Montgomery*, the Lord *Howard*, afterwards Duke of *Norfolk*, the Master of the Horse, Mr. *Challanger*, and the Marquis Son to the Queen of England by a former Marriage: To all these he gave great Gifts besides their Pensions, and particularly to the Lord Chamberlain *Hastings* 1000 Marks of Plate at once; and the Acquittances of all those Pensioners were to be seen in the French King's Chamber of Accompts, says *Comines*, except those of the Lord *Hastings*, that had formerly been a Pensioner to the Duke of *Burgundy* by *Comines's* Interest, who knowing his weak side, advis'd *Lewis XI.* to purchase him in the same manner, for he was at that time a great Enemy to France, and mightily press'd King *Edward* to assist the Heirefs of *Burgundy*; but *Lewis XI.* bought him off by doubling his Pension. He sent it him by Mr. *Cleret* Master of his own Household,

hold, and order'd him to take an Acquittance for it, as he did from the Lord Chancellor, the Lord High Admiral, the Master of the Horse and others, and as he had formerly done from the preceding Lord Chamberlain. But when he came to the Lord *Hastings*, and deliver'd him his Message with the Pension, that Lord refus'd him an Acquittance. The *French* Gentleman insisted on it, and said, that his Master might otherwise think he had cheated him, and not deliver'd the Money. The Lord *Hastings* reply'd, that what he said was very just, but since the Money came by the King's Free-Will, and not at his Desire, he must put it into his Sleeve without Witness or Acquittance, for it should never be said that the Great Chamberlain of *England* was a Pensioner of *France*, or that his Acquittance should be found in the *French* King's Chamber of Accounts. *Cleret* was forced to comply, and tho' *Lewis XI.* was angry at first when he told him the Story, he ever after esteem'd the Lord *Hastings* more than his other *English* Pensioners, and ordered his Money to be duly paid him without demanding any more Acquittances.

Thus, Sir, you have an Account of this dishonourable Treaty, how *England* was trick'd by the *French* King's Perfidiousness and Cunning, how our Allies were abus'd and ruin'd, how the exorbitant Power of *France* was founded, tho' *England* was in a Capacity to have prevented it; and how our Country and Parliaments were impos'd upon, to the perpetual Dishonour of the Nation, by the *French* King and his Pensioners.

I am, SIR, &c.